MEMBER: One method is to grant remission of tax on waste lands.

DEWAN: If you will write and give me your representation, I shall give you a definite ruling.

MEMBER Yes, I shall write and give you.

6. Tiruppuvaram payments and assignment of porambokes.

MR. NARAYANARU KRISHNARU (*Jenmies, Trivandrum Division, Group II*) said that when *jenmam* properties enjoyed by *kudiyans* escheated to the Government, the *michavaram* till then paid by them to the *Jenmies* came to be paid by the Government. This was the origin of *tiruppuvaram* payments. When such properties escheated to the Government, their tenure also was changed, with the result that the *jenmies* lost certain of their rights such as *adukkuvatu* and other dues in respect of those lands. At the last Settlement, some of the Settlement officers inadvertently reduced the *tiruppuvaram* charged on certain lands, when their *pattam* was revised. As a result of repeated representations by the *Jenmies*, the Government were pleased to order in their Proceedings No. 13027, dated the 6th December 1912, that the *Jenmies* should be paid the *tiruppavaram* according to the pre-Settlement records, that the *tiruppu* should be attached to the lands and paid from the *pattam* available and that the balance with arrears for 12 years at the prevailing *nirak* rates should also be paid with the interest thereon. There had been decisions of the High Court also to the above effect in the past. But recently these decisions were ignored and the High Court had given a new ruling as regards the *nirak* rate in A. S. No. 551/of 1104. This ruling set at nought the provisions of the Proclamation of 1061 and the orders of 1081 regarding the commutation rates fixed for converting paddy assessment into money. The effect of the new ruling was that the commutation rate was reduced while at the same time it involved a large amount of loss to the Government. The member therefore prayed that the rulings in the appeal case referred to above and in other cases decided on the basis of that decision should be set aside.

The next point urged by the member was about the difficulties experienced by the general public in regard to *porambokes*. At the time of demarcation during the last Settlement, the demarcation stones were planted within the limits of registered holdings adjacent to rivers, canals and other *porambokes*. This was done in order that the stones might not be washed away or misplaced. But subsequently the strips of land between the actual boundaries of the *porambokes* and the boundaries as marked by the stones planted were treated as *porambokes*, and the occupants thereof asked to pay fine, prohibitory assessment or *kuttakapattam*. Similarly, the tanks, roads, etc., adjoining Devaswoms and Brahmaswoms were also treated as *porambokes* although this was not warranted by the pre-Settlement records. This was hard. The member therefore prayed that the necessary orders might be issued for assigning the lands of the class referred to above either to the occupants or to the Devaswoms or Brahmaswoms, as the case may be.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayanaru Krishnaru, Government are considering the effect of the High Court ruling in these *tiruppuvaram* cases on a reference made on it by the Land Revenue Commissioner.

As regards *poramboke* lands, all that I can say is that each case will be considered on its merits.

7. Difficulties experienced by the Cheramars in getting lands registered on concessional terms and measures for removing the same.

MR. PARADI A. ISAAC (*Nominated*) said that the depressed classes were not really benefited by the Government Order passed in 1921 regarding the assignment of 3 acres of land to each family. While the population of the depressed classes was over a million the extent of land assigned to them was only 3,277 acres, the total area earmarked for assignment to them being 15,313, acres. The chief reason why more lands were not registered was that most of the area earmarked was rocky and unprofitable. In selecting lands to be earmarked, the Revenue authorities seldom visited the spots. One other difficulty experienced by the depressed classes (Cheramars) in regard to the assignment of lands was that very often they were evicted from the lands occupied and improved by them on the ground that the lands were either *poramboke* or formed part of registered, holdings or were reserved for grazing purposes. In some of these cases, the lands were assigned to members of other communities. Unless the Government took steps to alleviate the distress of these poor people their condition would indeed be pitiable. The appointment of a full-time Protector of Depressed Classes with powers to register lands on concessional terms would improve matters to a large extent. The need for appointing such an officer had been pressed at various sessions of the Assembly. That officer should be appointed without delay.

The depressed classes were agriculturists by profession. But they possessed no lands of their own. An extent of 3,000 acres of land had been disafforested and made available for wet cultivation. These lands might be earmarked for assignment to depressed classes alone. Among the lands referred to, the member specified the lands comprised in Survey Nos. 283/1, 111/1 and 372/1 of the Ranni pakuthi, Pattanamtitta taluk. An extent of 37 acres of land included in the *Nedumpuram*, *Kalappakod* and *Kuvakavu* swamps was occupied by about 40 families of Cheramars. But the members of the Syrian Christian community were trying to evict them. Members of the Kanakappapuram Cheramar Co-operative Society, No. 1117, had submitted applications for the lands. These applications should be enquired into and disposed of.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Isaac, Government have already done and *are* doing a lot for the depressed classes, whom you and the next two or three speakers represent. Anything more Government can do, will be done, if possible, and your representations on the subject will be noted.

It is impossible at this time of financial stringency to have a full-time Protector of Depressed Classes; but that will also be dealt with as occasion arises.

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